

The banquet on Saturday evening was a novel one. Those present will not forget the officious head-waiter who spoke rudely to some of the guests. This was carried to a point which required the presence of the manager, who peremptorily discharged the offender. The clever actor was now retained for the entertainment of the banqueters. A model of a bird sculptured in ice adorned each service of dessert.

The visit to Mr. Baldwin's laboratory on Sunday was a memorable event. Some of the traps contained birds at the time. After a stop at Mr. Baldwin's summer home the visitors were conducted to the laboratory itself, where all the mysterious apparatus was exhibited in full operation. At noon automobiles carried the party to Willoughby, where a steak dinner was to have been cooked in the oven over live coals; but on account of rain a large hall with an open fire-place was secured, which permitted indoors much of the freedom of an outdoor lunch.

In the afternoon another jaunt was taken to the home of Mr. Chester Brooks, at Mentor. It has been stated that Mr. Brooks has raised more species of wild ducks and geese than anyone else in America. Those who saw his immense flocks of wildfowl did not question this statement.

Merely as a matter of record it may be stated that the Cleveland meeting was a success; it could not have been otherwise with the enthusiastic and generous local constituency.

COMMUNICATIONS

Editor, WILSON BULLETIN: On reading your article entitled "Down with the Wren Boxes," I am surprised to think that you would print such an article on account of the harm you will do this dear little bird, which is not only strictly insectivorous, taking its quota of mosquitos, moths, and other insects every day, but is one of the few birds that sings all day, from before the sun comes up until after the sun goes down, and it has more friends among bird lovers than any other song bird.

I attract all the wrens to beautiful "Bird Lodge" that I can get to make their homes here, and I have yet to see one interfere or harm other birds or bird's nests. I have about twenty wren houses up and most of them occupied and will put up five or ten more the coming year as I dearly love to have this sweet little singer at "Bird Lodge;" they lend such an air of beauty and harmony with their pert appearance and sweet singing.

My long experience with the song birds (covering forty-five years) has shown me that birds have different dispositions the same as people, and at times they are cross and irritable, this fretful period only appearing on cold or rainy days. I can only think that the bird that Miss Sherman speaks of must have been a bad actor.

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH H. DODSON,

President American Audubon Association.

August 4, 1925.

[It has been suggested that the pages of the WILSON BULLETIN must be open to both sides of the House Wren controversy; hence we are glad to present the preceding communication from Mr. Dodson, the well-known bird house dealer.—Ed.]